REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1-10 and 26 stand rejected. Claims 11-25 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 4 and 26 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-10 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hanson et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,460,094 ("Hanson"). The Examiner stated that

> Regarding Claim 1, Hanson et al teaches an appartatus comprising a serial port (45, 46 in fig. 1) configured to interface with a separate host (fig. 1-3; col.3, line 35- col. 4, line 65); one serial interface engine (SIE) connected to the serial port (fig. 1-3); a first interface unit (40 in fig.1) and a second interface unit (30 in fig.1) connected to the serial interface engine (summary; figs. 1-5; col. 3, line 35- col. 5, line 63).
>
> Regarding Claim 4, Hanson et al teaches that the apparatus further includes a virtual hub comprising a firmware unit configure to emulate a hub having multiple ports (Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 21 – 35).

(p. 2, Office Action 7/23/04)

Hanson discloses that

> Generally, program modules include routine programs, objects, components, data structures, etc. that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. Moreover, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention may be practiced with other computer system configurations, including hand-held devices, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based or programmable consumer electronics, network PCs, minicomputers, mainframe computers, and the like. The invention is also applicable in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network. In a distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and remote memory storage devices.

(Hanson, Col. 3, lines 21-35)

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Hanson under 35 U.S.C. 102§(e). Amended claim 1, which includes the limitations of canceled claims 4 and 26, includes the following limitations.

> An apparatus comprising:
> a serial port configured to interface with a separate host;
> one serial interface engine (SIE) connected to the serial port;
> at least a first interface unit and a second interface unit connected to the serial interface engine; and
> a virtual hub comprising a firmware unit configured to emulate a hub having multiple ports.

(Amended claim 1) (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that Hanson does not disclose a virtual hub as claimed. Hanson describes that the self-configuring peripheral device, which is the invention of Hanson, may be implemented in a typical computing environment as described.

Hanson does not describe a virtual hub configured to emulate a hub having multiple ports. The Examiner is respectfully requested to identify that portion of Hanson col. 3, lines 21 – 35 constituting the virtual hub as claimed, as the limitations of virtual hub, firmware unit, and multiple port emulation do not appear in the cited reference.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 11/11/04 By: _____

Tom Van Zandt
Reg. No. 43,219

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8300